

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

April 26, 2012

Present:

**Linda Noble Mike Babbitt Carl Brunetti Claudette Lussier
William DiBiasio Domenic Ricci Maria Marcello Richard Foster
Paul DiDomenico Bob Turner Hagop Jawharjian**

There were no members absent.

Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:34 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 12th were distributed for review.

Carl Brunetti made a motion, seconded by Richard Foster, to accept the minutes.

The minutes were accepted by a vote of 10-0 with William DiBiasio abstaining because he was not present on April 12th.

Correspondence

It was noted that there was an article in the newspaper from the Town Administrator noting that he agreed with the Budget Board's recommendation that the School Budget Maintenance of Effort be lowered as allowed.

There was correspondence from the Town Clerk regarding not making the electronic voting system available for the Financial Town Meeting this year since it has not been used and it costs \$400 per year.

The Budget Board would still like to have it available, especially with a large amount of resolutions submitted for the coming Financial Town Meeting.

The Budget Board had distributed information about the detail of the \$5 million bond that paid for the Senior Center and the Barney Pond dam.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

Old Business

Review Municipal and School Budget

The Budget Board discussed how many school employees would be retiring and that it would be a good year for them to assess staffing to determine how many of those positions were necessary to be replaced.

The Budget Board noted that as far as they know by charter, the Water Commission should appear before the Budget Board each year regarding their budget requests.

It seems that the Water Commission believes by charter that they are not required to appear before the Budget Board and that they actually should be submitting their requests to the Town Council before it goes before the Budget Board.

The Budget Board also discussed that the Water Commission has consistently had a surplus as high as 30% based upon the rates they have been charging.

The Budget Board discussed possibly attending a meeting of the Water Commission to discuss their concerns and questions including whether the water infrastructure is actually property of the Town, or officially belongs to the Water Commission.

Additionally, the Budget Board would like to ask the Town Solicitor where the provisions are that give the Water Commission their independent commission status and enables them to act as such.

It was noted that the Sewer Enterprise Fund has been operating the same way as the Water Commission, even though there is no commission for that fund and the charter providing for the fund was not as detailed.

The Budget Board has not heard any comments, questions, or concerns from the Municipal or School administrations regarding their final budget recommendations upon submittal.

The Budget Board's proposed budget is on the Town's website.

The Budget Board is not aware of any other resolutions that would be submitted to the Financial Town Meeting by using voter signatures.

The Budget Board discussed the School Technology Plan and how it seems that a lot of the existing technology that had been listed as unusable is actually still good equipment, which is one of the reasons they recommended a lower budget of \$2.2 million.

Also discussed was whether there is a plan in place for when equipment is broken or down for a period of time.

Review June 30, 2011 Audit & Management Letter

The Budget Board discussed the OPEB Fund based upon information included in the audit.

The Budget Board also discussed the \$5 million bond and what it has been spent on and the balance according to the audit,

The audit report has been received by the Budget Board and the notes of areas that need improvement were included and were discussed, including the documentation of eligibility for the free lunch program.

There were only a few issues listed which shows a decrease from previous years.

New Business

Discussion of Financial Town Meeting Procedure

The Budget Board discussed questions that may be asked by the taxpayers at the Financial Town Meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

Adjourn

Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Domenic Ricci, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.